

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 24 JANUARY 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnwsbulletin.wordpress.com/>. To join the Mailchimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

SARL AWARDS AND TROPHIES

YOTA ONLINE – SESSION #9 ON 28 JANUARY

and

MAURITIUS PLANS TO LAUNCH MIR-SAT1 IN 2021

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We start the bulletin with news of three silent keys.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Hansie Meyer, ZS6AIK went silent on Wednesday 20 January 2021. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Henry Danielson, ZS2HD went silent on Thursday 21 January 2021 after a month long struggle against Covid. He was a member of PEARS. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Donnie, daughter Charline, son Henco, family and friends.

It is with deep regret that we announce the key of Jenny Nel, ZS6JWN went silent on Thursday 21 January 2021. Jenny was the chairman of the Magalies Radio Club in 2009. We extend our sincere condolences to her husband Johan, ZS6JPN, family and friends.

PAUSE

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

The SARL News Team welcomes Deon Erwin, ZS1ZL to the team!

SARL AWARDS AND TROPHIES

On pages 17 to 19 of the January 2021 issue of Radio ZS, you will find information about the SARL Awards and Trophies to be handed over at the 2021 SARL Awards Dinner, as well as information about the nomination to serve on Council and how to submit a motion to the AGM.

To date, the SARL Secretary has received no motions, one nomination to serve on Council (for the five vacancies) and three nominations for Awards. The closing date for Award nominations, Council nominations, motions and proposals is midnight on Sunday 31 January 2021 and must be sent to secretary@sarl.org.za.

FT4 ON THE LINEAR (SSB) AMATEUR SATELLITES

The free English language AMSAT-EA January newsletter features an article by Carlos Flores, EA3HAH about his experiences using FT4 on the linear (SSB) amateur satellites. He reports good results with 1 - 2 W and was able to decode without problems "on almost all calls." Visit https://amsat-ea.org/app/download/12569311/AMSAT-EA-Newsletter_01-2021.pdf to download your copy.

YOTA ONLINE – SESSION #9

Starting at 19:00 UTC on Thursday 28 January 2021, the YOTA Online topic will be "Recap: December YOTA Month 2020." This time we will have our YOTA IT team speaking about their self-developed DYM website and its newest features as well as guests talking about their impressions on the 2020 activity. Furthermore, we will also have a special prize draw after you solved our new riddle live on the show. We will give away two more ICOM packages. So, stay tuned and be excited!

YOTA Online will be streaming live again on our Youtube, Facebook and Twitch channels. Furthermore, we try to stream via the QO-100 geostationary satellite in DATV mode again.

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THE PZK 90 AWARD

Roman, SQ2RH says that in 2020, the Polish Amateur Radio Union (PZK) celebrated its 90th anniversary - on this occasion, a great international radio campaign "90 years of the PZK and 95 years of the IARU" was organized and within it you could get our commemorative e-Award. Until today, many participants of this radio action, also from your country, have not downloaded their e-Awards yet, and therefore we have decided to extend the possibility of downloading the awards until 30 April 2021. Visit <https://90.pzk.org.pl> to download your e-Award and on <https://90.pzk.org.pl/fullstat.html> you can read the detailed statistics.

MAURITIUS PLANS TO LAUNCH MIR-SAT1 IN 2021

The project was the first winner of the 2018 round of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) KiboCUBE Programme. The CubeSat will carry an amateur radio V/U digipeater (a downlink of 436,925 MHz has been coordinated). It is expected that JAXA will launch MIR-SAT1 (Mauritius Imagery and Radio - Satellite 1) to the International Space Station (ISS) in February for deployment in May or June, according to Space in Africa. The 1U nanosatellite was designed by a team of Mauritian engineers and an experienced radio amateur from the Mauritius Amateur Radio Society in collaboration with experts from AAC Clyde Space UK. Turn to page 43 of the January 2021 Radio ZS for more information.

OVER-THE-HORIZON RADARS (OTH-R) CONTINUE TO CLUTTER 40 AND 20 METRES

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Monitoring Service (IARUMS) reports that OTH-Rs have increasingly been finding spectrum on 17 and 15 metres. "Above all, the Russian OTH-R 'Contayner,' as well as OTH-Rs from China affect amateur radio more and more, sometimes quite massively, with three or four such signals showing in the same band," said IARUMS newsletter Editor Peter Jost, HB9CET in the December edition.

Significantly fewer FSK transmissions as well as the characteristic CIS12 signals from the Commonwealth of Independent States were to be found. "For some time now, a broadcast station is active every day at 11:00 – 12:58 UTC at 7 200 kHz," Jost said, adding that the signal appears to be coming from Taiwan. "The broadcast station 'Voice of Broad Masses' from Eritrea can be heard daily on 7 140 kHz (VOBM1) and increasingly also on 7 180 kHz (VOBM2)," he added. Occasionally, better conditions during November 2020 revealed fishing buoy signals and an Iranian OTH-R on 10 metres. The Chinese OTH-R nicknamed "Foghorn" "was and is a daily troublemaker," Jost reported in November.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at

low levels. There is currently a single sunspot region with a simple magnetic configuration visible. Minor C-class solar flaring can be expected. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around eleven. The 15 to 30 m bands will provide some DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – the BARTG RTTY Sprint

26 January – the Secunda ARC meeting

27 January – maybe the provincial schools open

28 January – YOTA Online "Recap: December YOTA Month 2020"

31 January – the closing date for AGM motions and nominations for SARL Awards and Council

1 February – the registration for the May RAE opens

6 February – the SARL VHF/UHF Activity Day and the Durban ARC meeting

7 February – the AWA CW Activity Day

8 February – the West Rand ARC meeting

13 February - World Radio Day

13 and 14 February – the CQ WPX RTTY and the PACC contests

14 February – Valentine's Day

15 February – maybe the Provincial schools open

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

To date, the SARL Secretary has received no motions, one nomination to serve on Council (for the five vacancies) and three nominations for Awards. The closing date for Award nominations, Council nominations, motions and proposals is midnight on Sunday 31 January 2021 and must be sent to secretary@sarl.org.za. Turn to pages 17 to 19 of the January 2021 Radio ZS for all the details.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.